

**REMARKS**

The foregoing amendment to claim 10 corrects a minor textual error.

The above presented new claims 33-40 further address the concept embodiment achieved in the present invention by which a single handle subassembly can be individually associated with each one of a plurality of different tool heads including paint brush heads incorporating brushes of different characteristics. This concept was previously specifically addressed in claims 24-26.


Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Our check in the amount of \$156.00 to cover the fee for additional claims is enclosed. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 15-0508.

Early consideration of this application is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,


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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 27, 2003.

  
Michael A. Hierl

**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made**

Please amend claim 10 as follows:

10. (Amended) A paint brush assembly comprising in combination:

a handle subassembly comprising a handle and a tool connector that is connected to an end portion of said handle subassembly;

said tool connector having wall portions that define an interior cavity, an open forward end, and pair of windows located in opposed relationship to each other and having a pair of opposed portico portions extending laterally outwardly from said wall portions; and

a brush subassembly comprising a bristle pack, a brush ferrule means, and a handle connector that is connected to said brush ferrule means;

said handle connector having a longitudinally outwardly extending projection, a pair of resilient arms, each arm longitudinally extending in adjacent spaced relationship along a portion of a different opposed side portion of said projection, each arm having a terminal portion, and a pair of upstanding pedestal portions, each ~~projection~~ pedestal portion positioned in laterally outwardly spaced adjacent relationship to a different one of said arms;

the interrelationship between said handle connector and said tool connector being such that said handle connector is slidably, nestably, and detachably connectable with said tool connector by inserting said handle connector substantially completely into tool connector through said open forward end so that

each said terminal portion matingly but reversibly engages and interlocks with a different one of said windows,

portions of said projection abut regions of said wall portions in said interior cavity, and

each said pedestal portion is adjacent a different one of said portico portions.

Claims 33-40 have been added.

33. (New) A tool assembly comprising a handle subassembly and a plurality of tool head subassemblies,

said handle subassembly having a proximal portion and a distal portion, said proximal portion defining a hand-graspable surface region, said distal portion defining a universal handle connector;

each said tool head subassembly having a forward tool-working portion and a rearward tool connector;

said universal handle connector being disconnectably connectable individually with each one of said tool connectors;

said universal handle connector having

- wall portions that define an interior cavity about an open forward end of said distal portion,

- a pair of windows defined in said wall portions and located in opposed relationship to each other, and

- a pair of opposed portico portions defined in said wall portions and that each extend laterally outwardly from said wall portions, and

each said tool connector having

- a generally transversely extending base portion,

- a projection generally longitudinally and outwardly extending from said base portion,

- a pair of resilient arms, each said arm longitudinally extending outwardly from said base portion in adjacent, spaced relationship to and along a portion of a different opposed side region of said projection, and each arm having a terminal portion, and

- a pair of pedestal portions, each said pedestal portion extending outwardly from said base portion in laterally adjacent, spaced adjacent relationship to a different one of said arms;

the interrelationship between said universal handle connector and each one of said tool connectors being such that said universal handle connector is slidably, nestably, and detachably connectable with each said tool connector by inserting said universal handle connector substantially completely into said tool connector through said open forward end so that

- each said terminal portion matingly but reversibly engages and interlocks with a different one of said windows,

- portions of said projection abut regions of said wall portions in said interior cavity, and

- each said pedestal portion is adjacent a different one of said portico portions.

34. (New) The tool assembly of claim 33 wherein said handle subassembly defines a paint brush handle and wherein each of said tool head subassemblies defines a paint applicator.

35. (New) The tool assembly of claim 34 wherein each said tool head subassembly defines a paint brush.

36. (New) The tool assembly of claim 35 wherein each said paint brush is different from all other paint brushes comprising said plurality of tool head subassemblies.

37. (New) The tool assembly of claim 33 wherein each said tool head subassembly additionally includes comprises skirt portions that outwardly extend in an opposed direction from said base portion and that are slidably engageable with a brush ferrule.

38. (New) The tool assembly of claim 37 wherein said skirt portions are so slidably engaged with a brush ferrule and said brush ferrule is secured to said skirt portions by a bonding agent.

39. (New) A paint applicator assembly comprising a paint applicator handle subassembly and a plurality of paint applicator subassemblies,

said paint applicator handle subassembly having a proximal portion and a distal portion, said proximal portion defining a hand-graspable surface region, and said distal portion defining a universal handle connector region;

each said paint applicator subassembly of said plurality of paint applicators having a forward portion and a rearward portion, said forward portion defining an applicator means for paint application, and said rearward portion defining a paint applicator connector, and wherein

each said paint applicator subassembly of said plurality of paint applicators has a substantially identical said paint applicator connector, but wherein each said applicator means for paint application is different from other said applicator means for paint application of said plurality of paint applicator subassemblies;

said universal handle connector region being disconnectably connectable individually with each one of said paint applicator connectors of said plurality of paint applicator subassemblies;

said universal handle connector region having—

- wall portions that define an interior cavity about an open forward end of said distal portion,

- a pair of windows defined in said wall portions and located in opposed relationship to each other, and

- a pair of opposed portico portions defined in said wall portions and that each extend laterally outwardly from said wall portions, and

each said paint applicator connector of said plurality of paint applicator subassemblies having—

- a generally transversely extending base portion,

- a projection generally longitudinally and outwardly extending from said base portion,

- a pair of resilient arms, each said arm longitudinally extending outwardly from said base portion in adjacent, spaced relationship to and along a portion of a different opposed side region of said projection, and each said arm having a terminal portion, and

- a pair of pedestal portions, each said pedestal portion extending outwardly from said base portion in laterally adjacent, spaced adjacent relationship to a different one of said arms;

the interrelationship between said universal handle connector region and each one of said paint applicator connectors of said plurality of paint applicator subassemblies being such that said universal handle connector region is slidably, nestably, and detachably connectable with each said paint applicator connectors by inserting said universal handle connector region substantially

completely into one of said paint applicator connectors through said open forward end thereof so that

- each said terminal portion matingly but reversibly engages and interlocks with a different one of said windows,

- portions of said projection abut regions of said wall portions in said interior cavity, and

- each said pedestal portion is adjacent a different one of said portico portions.

40. (New) The paint brush applicator assembly of claim 39 wherein said applicator means for paint application in each paint applicator subassembly of said plurality of paint applicator subassemblies defines a paint brush.